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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 8, 1864.—Referred to Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

[By the CHAIR.]

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 7, 1864.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I herewith transmit, for your consideration, a communication from the Secretary of War, covering an estimate "of funds needed to meet a deficiency in the appropriation to pay the officers and employees" of the War Department.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

COMMUNICATION FROM SECRETARY OF WAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A., }
Richmond, Dec. 6, 1864. }

To the President of the Confederate States :

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith an estimate, prepared by the disbursing clerk of this department, of funds needed to meet a deficiency in the appropriation to pay the officers and employees of the department. The deficiency arises from the failure of Congress, at its last session, to make an appropriation to pay the increased compensation authorized by the act approved June 14, 1864.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, }
War Department, }
Richmond, Va., Dec. 5, 1864. }

Hon. J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War :

SIR: At the close of the last session, Congress increased the pay

of the officers and employees of the Executive Departments without making an appropriation to meet the increase. Consequently, all funds applicable, so far as the War Department and its bureaus are concerned, have been exhausted, except to the amount of about six thousand dollars; and I am constrained to request that you will ask of Congress to make an appropriation, to meet the deficiency, of \$88,000,000.

The earliest action is solicited in order to obtain funds for payment at the close of the present month.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALFRED CHAPMAN,
Disbursing Clerk, War Department.

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